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UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
The Archaeology of West Cambridge
-The High Cross Fields Evaluation-

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-The High Cross Fields Evaluation-

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Cambridge Archaeological Unit
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Summary

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit on land off Madingley Road, approximately 2km to the west of Cambridge town centre (TL 43119/59060). This was carried out in advance of a proposed University development and was commissioned by the University of Cambridge, Estate Management and Building Service. The evaluation revealed evidence of two separate settlement areas; an early Romano- British site was found in the north-west field (c. 70- 120/130 AD), and a Middle to later Iron Age site (c. 300 - 1 BC) was uncovered in the south field. Residual worked flint and late Bronze Age pottery was also found in later features, indicating a background Bronze Age presence in the area.

Introduction

Between the 11th December and the 9th January 2001 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cambridge Archaeological Unit (CAU) on land off Madingley Road, approximately 2km to the west of Cambridge town centre (TL 43119/59060, Figure 1). This was carried out on recommendation from the County Archaeology Office, Cambridgeshire County Council and was commissioned by the University of Cambridge, Estate Management and Building Service, in advance of the construction of new University buildings, car parks, with landscaping and associated groundworks.

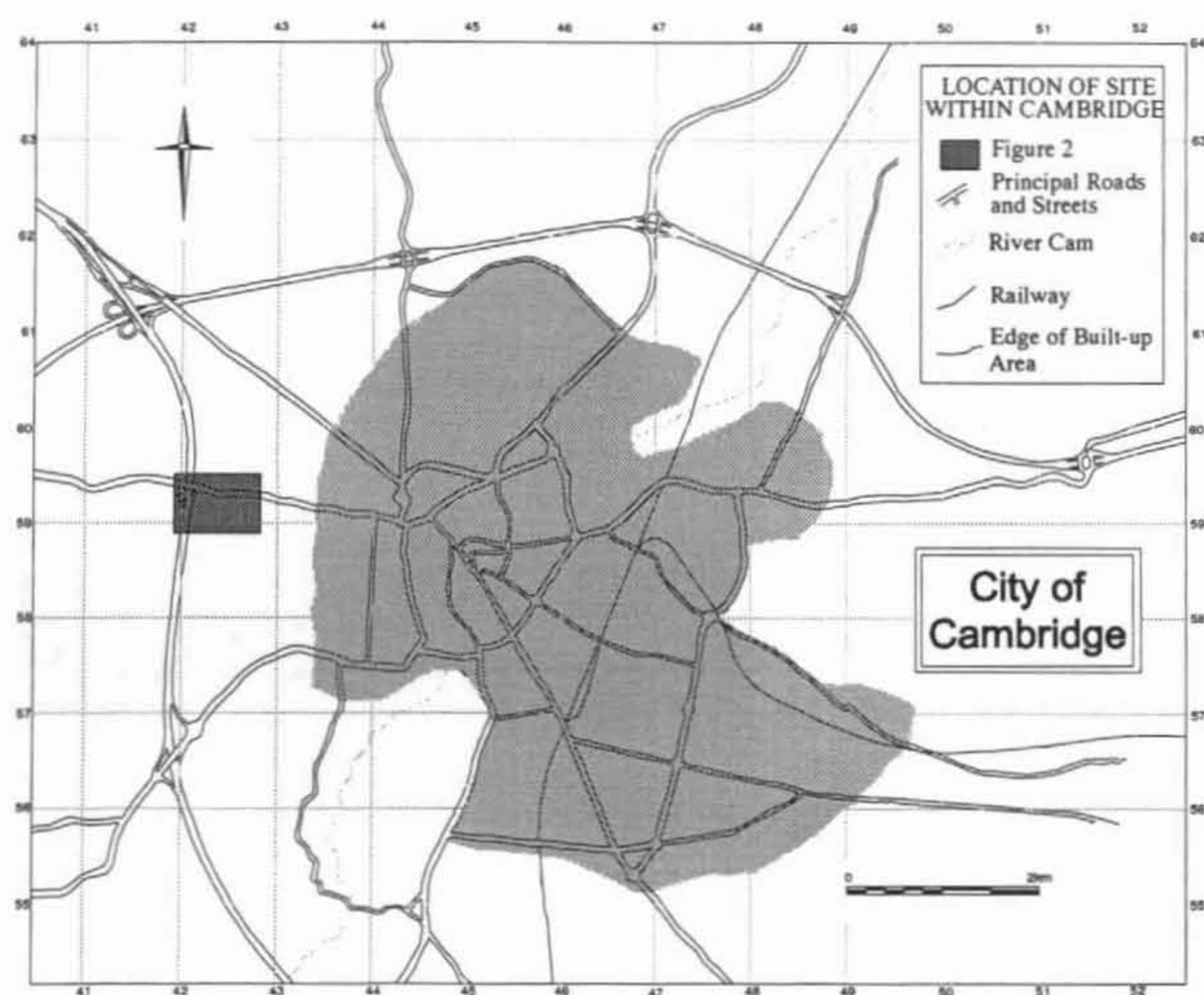


Figure 1: Location of site within Cambridge

Site Location and Geology

The site lies directly south of the University of Cambridge Veterinary School of Medicine, the Schlumberger Buildings and directly west of the Cavendish Laboratories, bounded in the south by the Coton footpath (Figure 2). The c. 20 hectare area is presently used as pasture fields by the University Farm, with some derelict dairy buildings and a sludge lagoon situated in the northern field. The underlying geology is that of the Gault Clays of the Cretaceous period. The ground level undulates somewhat across the site area with the 21m O.D. contour in the north-west sloping down to 15m O.D in the south-east before rising again to 18m in the south-west of the site. The level of the ground in the southern field has been altered somewhat in the last 60 years due to the construction of war time stores and aircraft hangers, that were demolished in 1972, the landscaping of the area having raised the level of the ground over a metre in some areas.

Archaeological and Historical Background

In 1998 a program of geological test pitting was undertaken across much of the University's West Cambridge site, each test pit was archaeologically monitored (Dickens 1999a). No archaeology was noted in the nineteen test pits that were dug across the evaluation area, but further to the north of the School of Veterinary Medicine two out of the six test pits did reveal archaeological features, but of uncertain date. Close to these pits in the winter of 2000 an evaluation was undertaken on the site of the New Stable Block, west of the Veterinary School, only Post-Medieval features were found (Lucas 2000). Similarly in 1996 monitoring of a gas pipe line reported only a Post-Medieval finds scatter, south of the dairy buildings in the centre of the evaluation area (Alexander 1996; SMR 08713).

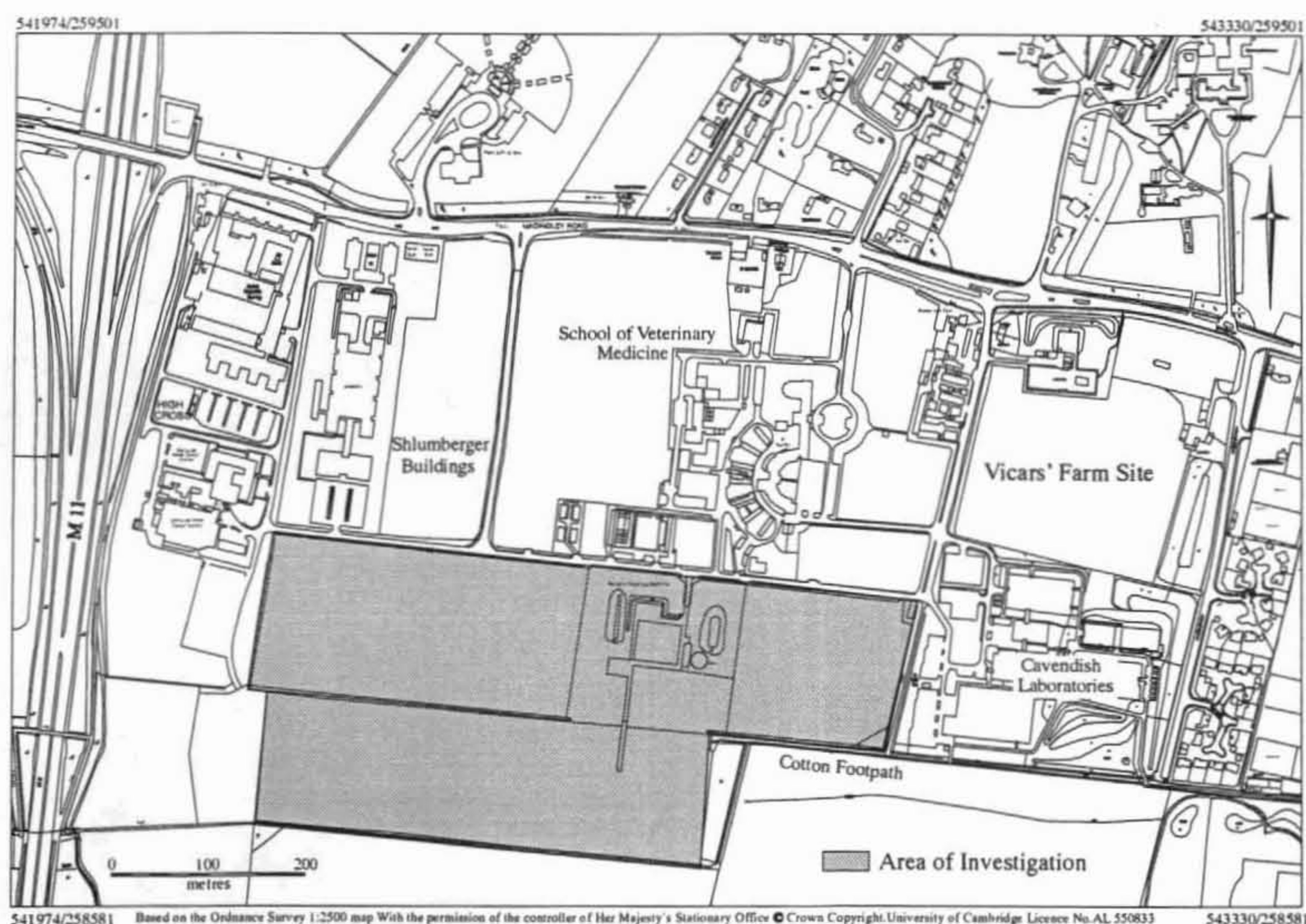


Figure 2: Site Location

Archaeological remains found within site environs have been fully assessed in two Desktop studies to which the reader is referred (Alexander 1996; Dickens 1999b). Recent archaeological works in the area include small test pits at the Hoyle Building Site, University Observatories, where Iron Age pottery was found in Medieval/Post Medieval quarry pits c. 600m to the north-east (Masser 2000). Only a short distance to the north-east of the site (Figure 2) in the winter and spring of 1999/2000 a major excavation was undertaken on land that previously surrounded Vicar's Farm (now demolished). These investigations led to the discovery of an important Romano-British settlement, it had over 1000 features, including an inhumation and cremation cemetery, the settlement spanned four centuries from the 1st through to the early 5th centuries AD (Whittaker & Evans 1999, Lucas & Whittaker forthcoming).

In 1996 the CAU commissioned an assessment of the aerial photographs of the High Cross area (Palmer 1996). Photographs examined only highlighted that the evaluation area had been previously under strip cultivation in Medieval/Post Medieval times as traces of ridge-and-furrow were visible. The earliest cartographic evidence of the area dates back to Baker's plan of 1830, this shows the field boundaries on the northern side of the evaluation area to have remained the same for 170 years. At this time the Coton Footpath ran straight across the assessment area alongside the central ditch and hedgerow, it now circumnavigates the evaluation area to the south. It is known that Coton Footpath previously known as Coton Way has origins in the Medieval period. A Plan of the Lands in Cambridge West Fields' was produced by Hall and Ravensdale (1976) in the 1970's, this plan was based on their work on the 'Corpus Terrier', a document listing all the titheable lands in c. 1360. The Coton Way can be seen on the plan of the 'West Fields' to run along roughly the same line as that surveyed on Baker's map.

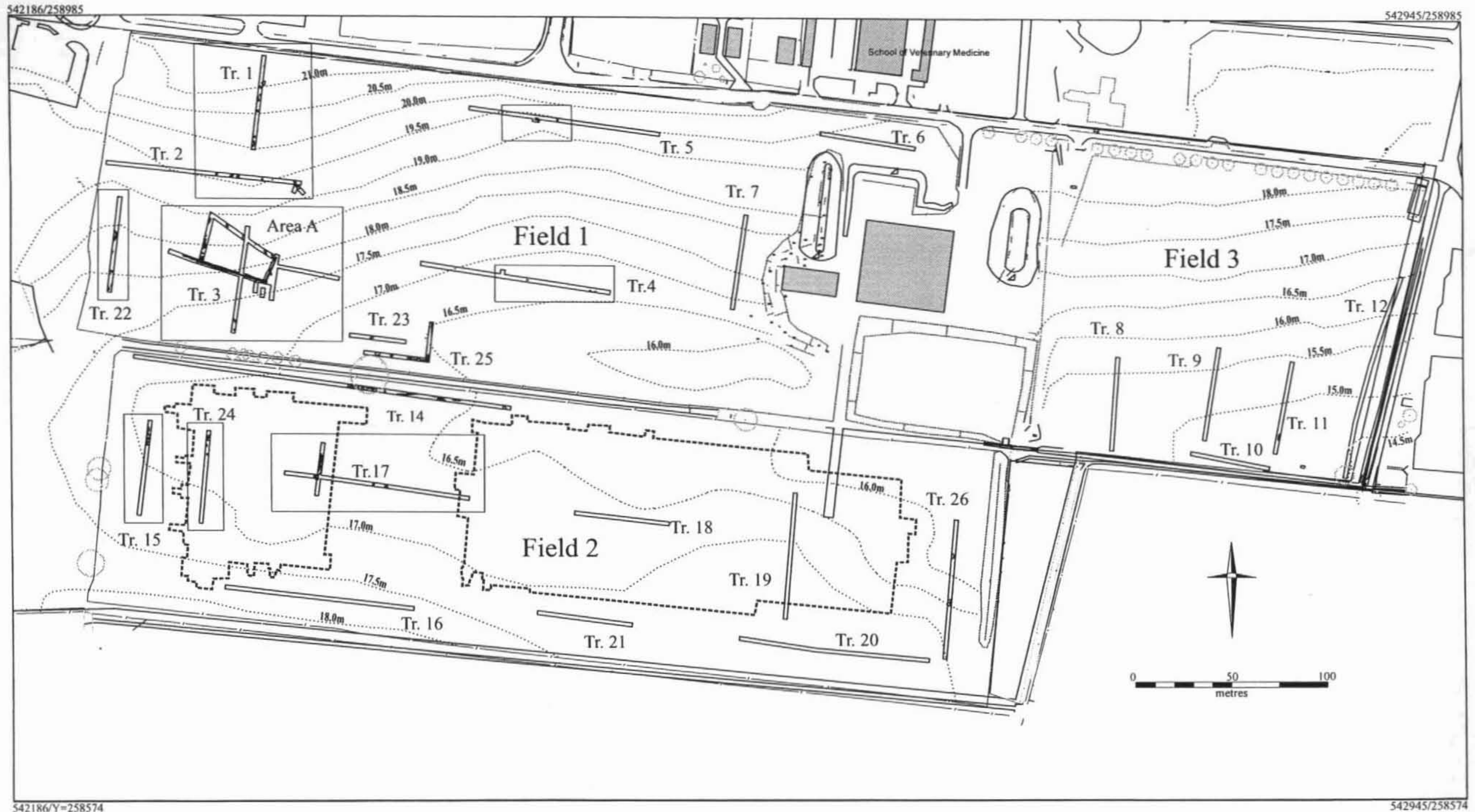
Methodology

The evaluation involved c. 1500m of trenching with a further 500m judgmental allocation to delineate potential sites, equating to a 2% sample of the whole area. Twenty six trenches were located across the three fields, avoiding standing buildings, spoil heaps and services, the trenches were located using an EDM (Figure 3). They were machine excavated to the depth of the visible archaeology using a toothless ditching bucket, 2m in width. The Unit modified version of the Museum of London recording system was employed throughout to record the archaeology found within the trenches (Spence 1990). A total of 77 features were identified, feature numbers were assigned as a descriptive aid in defining a posthole, pit, etc. (e.g. F. 1), with their fills and cuts assigned individual context numbers indicated within the text in square brackets (e.g. [001]). Sections were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, base-plans at 1:50 with black and white photographic record shots taken, supplemented by colour slides. Except where underwater, all features were manually half sectioned or a 1m segment dug, whichever was more appropriate.

The environmental samples were assessed by Rachel Ballantyne (Appendix 1), flint from the evaluation was analysed by Chantal Conneller (Appendix 2), Gavin Lucas and J.D. Hill assessed the pottery (Appendices 3 & 4), and Andrew Clarke assessed the animal bone (Appendix 5). The archive and finds are presently located at the CAU offices at Downing Place, Cambridge, the site code was HGX 00.

Results

The evaluation area is already divided into three fields and the results will be discussed by field, and then in trench order. For a table of finds recovered see Appendix 6.



Based on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map. With the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office © Crown Copyright. University of Cambridge Licence No.AL 550833

Figure 3

Field 1

The trenches were situated avoiding the area between trench 4 and 5, which had a large spoil heap from the surrounding development, covering an area of c. 150m x 250m.

Trench 1

The machined depth of this trench ranged from 0.60m in the north to 0.36m in the south end, with a length of 50m. An extra small boxed area was machined to ascertain whether a feature was a butt end of a ditch or a pit. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth range between 20.91m and 19.79m O.D. There were a total of twelve features, two gullies, four posthole bases and six pits (Figure 4). Unfortunately these had all been heavily truncated and only the shallow remains of the features survived, no artefacts were retrieved from the fills.

F. 1 Cut /Fill [004]

Possible pit/linear butt end, jutting out of section 0.30m, width 1.1 m, depth 0.09m. Cut was very shallow with a bowl shaped profile. Light grey, brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 2 Cut /Fill [005]

Pit, diameter 0.95m x 0.90m, depth 0.42m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Mid yellow brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel inclusions and small to medium stones. Cutting through subsoil [003].

F. 3 Cut /Fill [006]

Possible base of posthole, diameter 0.30m, depth 0.08m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Light grey, brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 4 Cut /Fill [007]

Possible base of posthole, diameter 0.40m, depth 0.10m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles. Stone packing around outer northern edges.

F. 5 Cut /Fill [008]

Possible base of posthole, diameter 0.50m, depth 0.09m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 6 Cut /Fill [009]

Pit, diameter 0.50m x 1m, depth 0.20m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Mid brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles. Cuts [010] to the north.

F. 7 Cut /Fill [010]

Pit, diameter 1.25m x 0.80m, depth 0.23m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel inclusions and small to medium stones.

F. 8 Cut /Fill [011]

Possible gully curving slightly to the east, on an east - west alignment, width 0.70 m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light grey brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 9 Cut /Fill [012]

Base of pit, diameter 0.40m, depth 0.08m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel inclusions and small to medium stones.

F. 10 Cut /Fill [015]

Possible eaves gully curving to the south and terminating, width 0.40 m, depth 0.25m. Cut had steeply sloping sides to a rounded base. Light grey brown, clayey silt fill, and occasional small pebbles, medium stones especially in butt-end fill.

F. 11 Cut /Fill [013]

Triangular shaped pit, 0.50m length, 0.45m wide, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel inclusions and small to medium stones.

F. 12 Cut /Fill [014]

Possible base of posthole, diameter 0.40m, depth 0.18m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

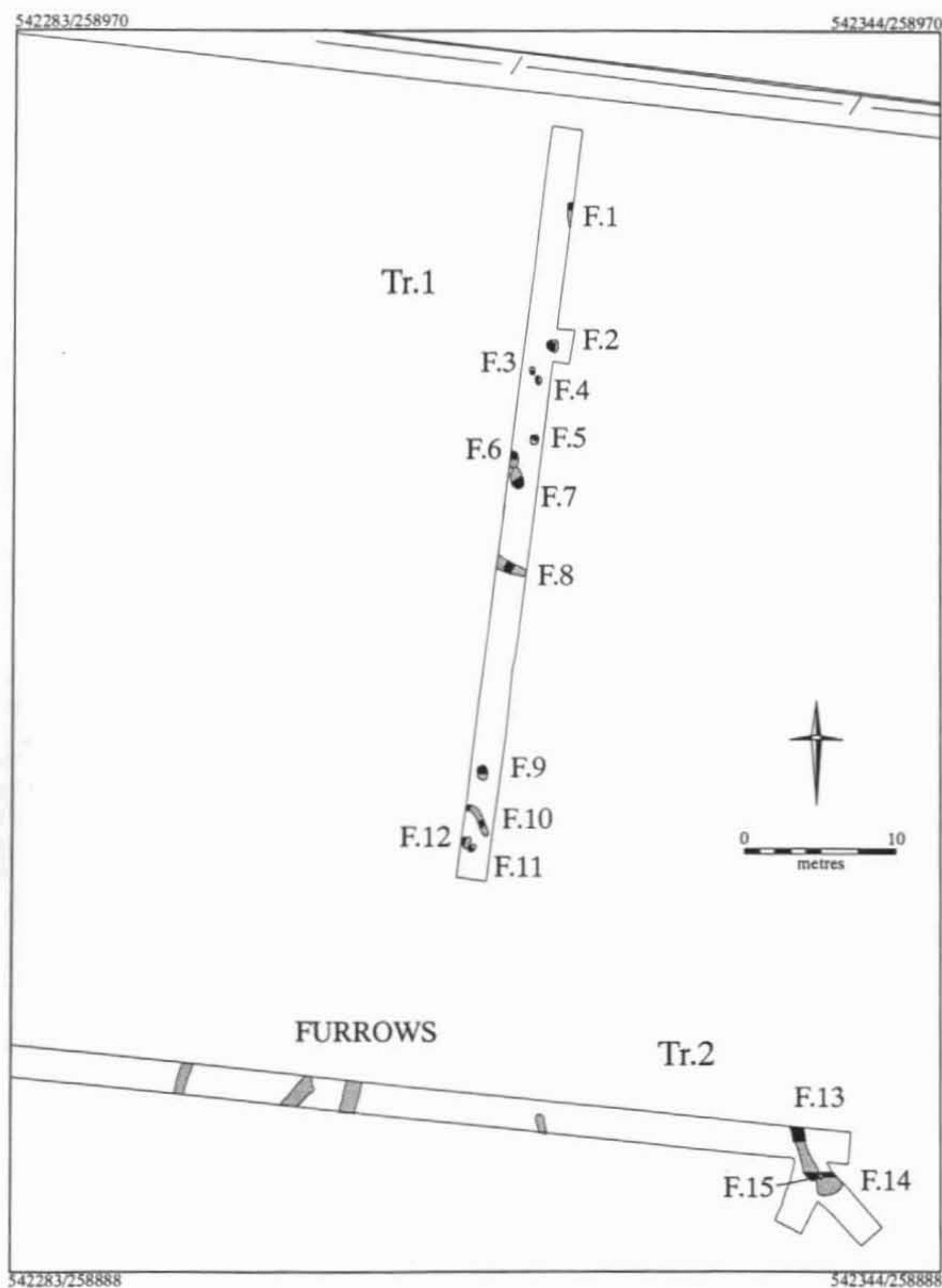


Figure 4

Trench 2

The machined depth of this trench averaged at 0.55m, with a length of 100m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth range between 18.84m and 18.95m O.D. There was one linear ditch feature (F. 13) in the trench, further machining around this feature showed it to be terminating in the south-east (Figure 4). It was cutting the subsoil [002] and contained only one sherd of abraded 12th century pottery. It was probably a Post-Medieval field boundary ditch. The ditch cut a posthole F. 15 and a probable pit F. 14 that contained Post-Medieval tile and mortar fragments. Occasional furrows could be seen to survive beneath the later ploughing, within the fill of the furrows [038] were clay tobacco pipes, coal and 19th century pottery.

F. 13 Cut [078], Fill [076], [077]

Ditch cut aligned north-west to south-east, width 0.85 m, depth 0.42m, terminating in the south-east. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Light - mid grey brown, silty clay primary fill [076], occasional small pebbles; upper fill [077] lighter yellowish brown smooth, sticky, silty clay, occasional small pebbles. Cuts plough soil [002] and posthole F. 15 and pit F. 14.

F. 14 Cut /Fill [071]

Pit/butt end of linear (not excavated) jutting out of section c. 0.80m, width 0.75m, cut by F.13. Fill was a pale grey brown clay with cream mortar patches.

F. 15 Cut /Fill [072]

Posthole, diameter 0.40m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Mid brown, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

Trench 3

The machined depth of this trench ranged from 0.45m in the north to 0.70m in the south end, with a length of 50m. A thick colluvial layer was apparent creating a greater depth down-slope in the southern end of the trench. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 18.03m in the north-end, changing to a brown orange clayey sandy silt at a depth of 16.49m O.D. in the south end. There was one pit/butt linear end and two gullies in the trench (Figure 5).

F. 16 Cut [080], Fill [079]

Pit/ditch butt end jutting out of section 0.75m, width 1.10 m, depth 0.38m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Light orange grey brown sandy, clayey silt fill, occasional small stones and gravel.

F. 17 Cut [082], Fill [081]

Linear aligned north-west to south-east, width 0.35 m, depth 0.13m. Cut was fairly steep sided to a 'V' shaped base. Light orange grey brown sandy, clayey silt fill, occasional small stones and gravel.

F. 18 Cut [084], Fill [083]

Linear aligned almost east - west, width 0.46 m, depth 0.28m. Cut was fairly steep sided to a 'U' shaped base. Dark brown grey, clayey silt fill, occasional small stones and gravel.

Pit F.16 was sealed by the great depth (c. 0.50m) of colluvium. It contained one fragment of lightly fired pottery of Romano-British date. Approximately 3 metres to the north of this pit was a narrow linear F. 17, which contained a similar fill but no artefacts were recovered. Further to the north linear F.18 had only animal bone retrieved from its fill, judgemental trenching was carried out to try and ascertain a date for this feature, and trace its limits. The extra trenching around trench 3 is entitled Area A.

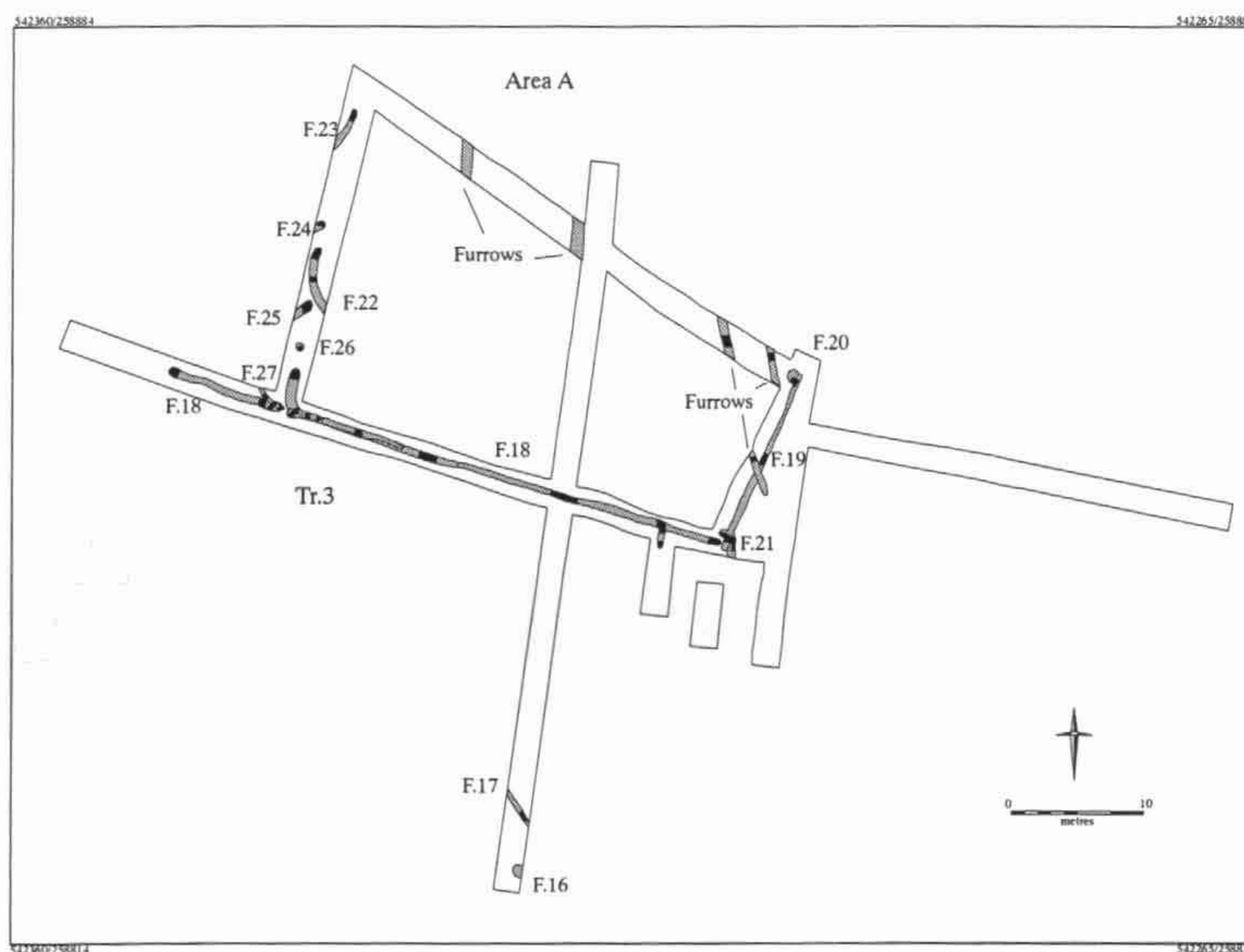


Figure 5

Area A

The judgemental trenching exposed the south-eastern corner of a narrow linear enclosure (Figure 5). Remnants of earlier features (F. 20 & F. 21) could be seen beneath the terminal ends on the eastern side of the enclosure. On the western side there were later re-cuts to the ditch and terminal ends seen in the west (F. 18) and turning slightly to the north. The pottery within the enclosure ditch (F.18 & F. 19) was mixed with twenty sherds of late 1st/2nd century AD Romano-British wares as well as nine sherds of Iron Age pottery. One sherd of Iron Age wheel-turned pot of 1st century AD date (either 'Aylesford Swarling' or 'Belgic', Appendix 4) was found amongst the Romano-British sherds. Small abraded late Bronze Age sherds were also found in F.21 being cut by F.19. The environmental samples taken from enclosure ditch F. 18 [067] found little in the way of charred grains, only one fragment of a glume-wheat grain was recovered (Ballantyne, Appendix 10). Amongst the small proportion of charred material recovered some of the charcoal was vitrified, some porous, and some concreted material was also present, suggesting that at some point

intense burning conditions were present. To the north-west of this early Roman enclosure ditch were vague remnants of at least three possible eaves-gullies (F. 22, F. 23 & F. 25), they were all less than 0.10m deep and had no artefacts within their fills.

Linear F. 18 Cut [067,073,074,064], Fill [060b,112,113,063] continues for a further 11.5m on the same eastern alignment before terminating. The cut [074] was bowl shaped with gradually sloping sides, with a maximum width of 0.65m and depth of 0.23m. A recut [073] was seen 5m from the eastern butt-end turning to the south and terminating after a length of c.1.2m. This cut [073] had a width of 0.40m with a depth of 0.09m was very shallow. It then has a connected ditch **F. 19** cut [126/128] forming an enclosure and aligned north - south terminating after a length of 14.5m. Cut [126/128] was 'U' shaped fairly steeply sloping sides to a rounded base, 0.52m wide and 0.24m deep, filled with dark to mid grey brown clayey silt, occasional gravel and small to medium flint nodules and limestone cobbles. To the west of trench 3 the ditch cut [067] continues for a further 16m, it then turns to the north and butts after a 3m length. A sausage recut [066] can be seen on the corner before the gully turns to the north and terminates after 3m. The linear **F. 18b** alignment [064] continues 9.5m further to the west before terminating. Cut [064] was 'U' shaped gradual sloping sides to a rounded base, 0.50m wide and 0.20m deep, filled with grey brown clayey silt, rare gravel.

F. 20 Cut [124], Fill [123]

Posthole/small pit, width 0.50m, depth 0.15m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid grey, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 21 Cut [127], Fill [129]

Possible linear butt end, length 2.5m, width 0.70m, depth 0.08m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid grey, brown silt fill, occasional small pebbles and medium limestone cobbles.

F. 22 Cut/Fill [068]

Possible eaves-gully curvilinear eastern side, terminating in the north-east, width 0.56m, depth 0.06m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Light yellow, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 23 Cut/Fill [118]

Possible eaves-gully curvilinear western side, terminating in the north-east, width 0.65m, depth 0.04m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Light yellow, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 24 Cut/Fill [117]

Possible linear butt end/pit, width 0.64m, depth 0.14m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light yellow, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 25 Cut/Fill [116]

Possible linear butt end/pit, width 0.70m, depth 0.08m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light yellow, brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel and small-medium limestone.

F. 26 Cut/Fill [115]

Posthole, diameter 0.50m, depth 0.15m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light yellow, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 27 Cut/Fill [065]

Possible linear/curvilinear butt end (possible plough line/small furrow, length 2.5m, width 0.30m, depth 0.15m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid brown clayey silt fill, occasional gravel. Cuts linear [064].

Trench 4

The average machined depth was 0.70m; the trench was 100m long, with an extra boxed area was machined around the pit features. The natural was a mid brown orange sandy silt and was found at a depth range between 16.03m and 16.56m O.D. There were three postholes, one pit and a possible linear butt end/pit found in this trench (Figure 6). A thick colluvial subsoil sealed these features but of those excavated they were still relatively shallow and contained no artefacts. Three features were unexcavated due to severe flooding of the trench.

F. 28 Cut [37] Fill [036]

Posthole, diameter 0.48m, depth 0.11m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a pointed base. Light grey clayey silt fill.

F. 29 Cut [035], Fill [033], [034]

Linear butt end/pit, jutting out of the section 0.70m, width 0.80m, depth 0.18m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Upper fill [033] was a dark grey silt with frequent charcoal inclusions, primary fill [034] was a mid grey, brown clayey silt, occasional small pebbles.

F. 30 Posthole (not excavated) 0.50m x 0.40m, pale - mid grey sandy silt fill.

F. 31 Pit (not excavated) 1.10m x 0.60m, pale - mid grey sandy silt fill with occasional charcoal flecks.

F. 32 Posthole (not excavated), diameter 0.60m, pale - mid grey sandy silt fill.

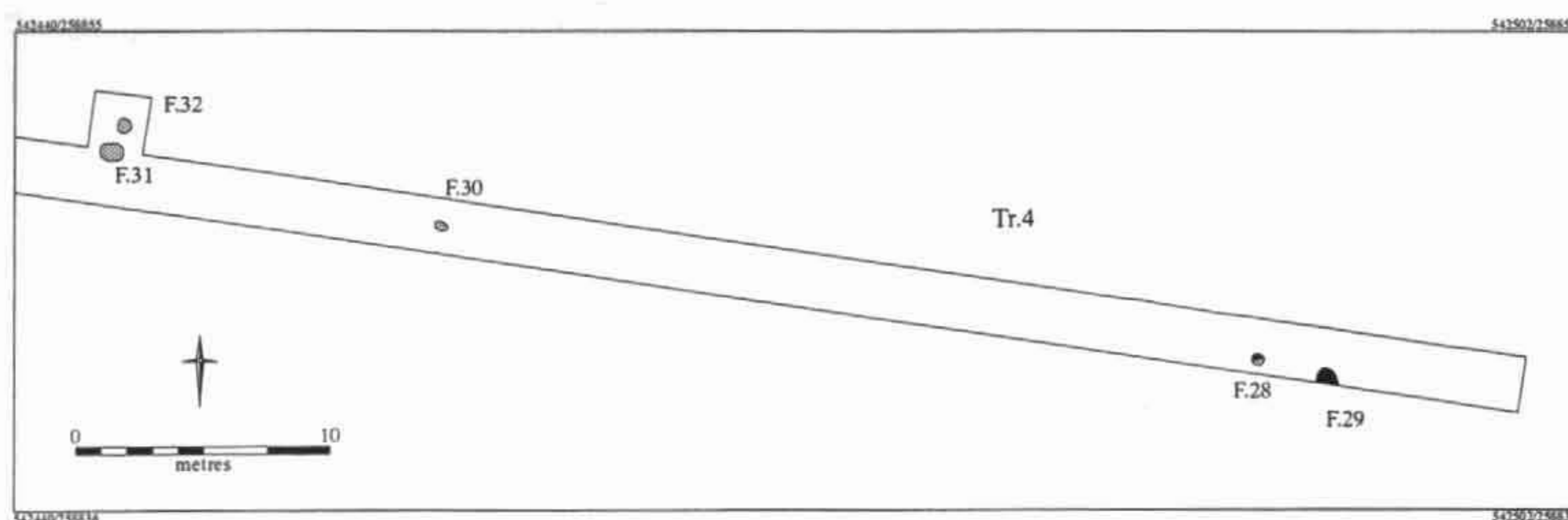


Figure 6

Trench 5

The average machined depth was 0.60m; the trench was 100m long, with an extra boxed area was machined to expose what turned out to be a tree bowl. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth range between 19.14m and 18.91m O.D. Only two features were found in this trench, one was a Post-Medieval pit with red brick fragments within its fill (Figure 7). The other was a tree bowl that had been burned in situ, a fragment of Romano-British (1st/2nd AD century) pottery was retrieved from the charcoal rich clay fill. This could be residual but the tree/stump was probably burnt when the Romano-British were occupying the settlement was 200m to the south-west.

F. 33 Fill [025-031]

Burnt out tree bowl. Irregular shaped within an area of 2m x 1.5m, maximum depth 0.30m. Mixed fills - lower fills [026], [027], [028] were dark brown clays and charcoal rich. Upper fill/layer [025] was a yellow, grey clay. The natural grey gault clay around the bowl was burnt a brownish red [029].

F. 34 Post-Medieval pit 0.40m in diameter, brown, grey clayey silt.

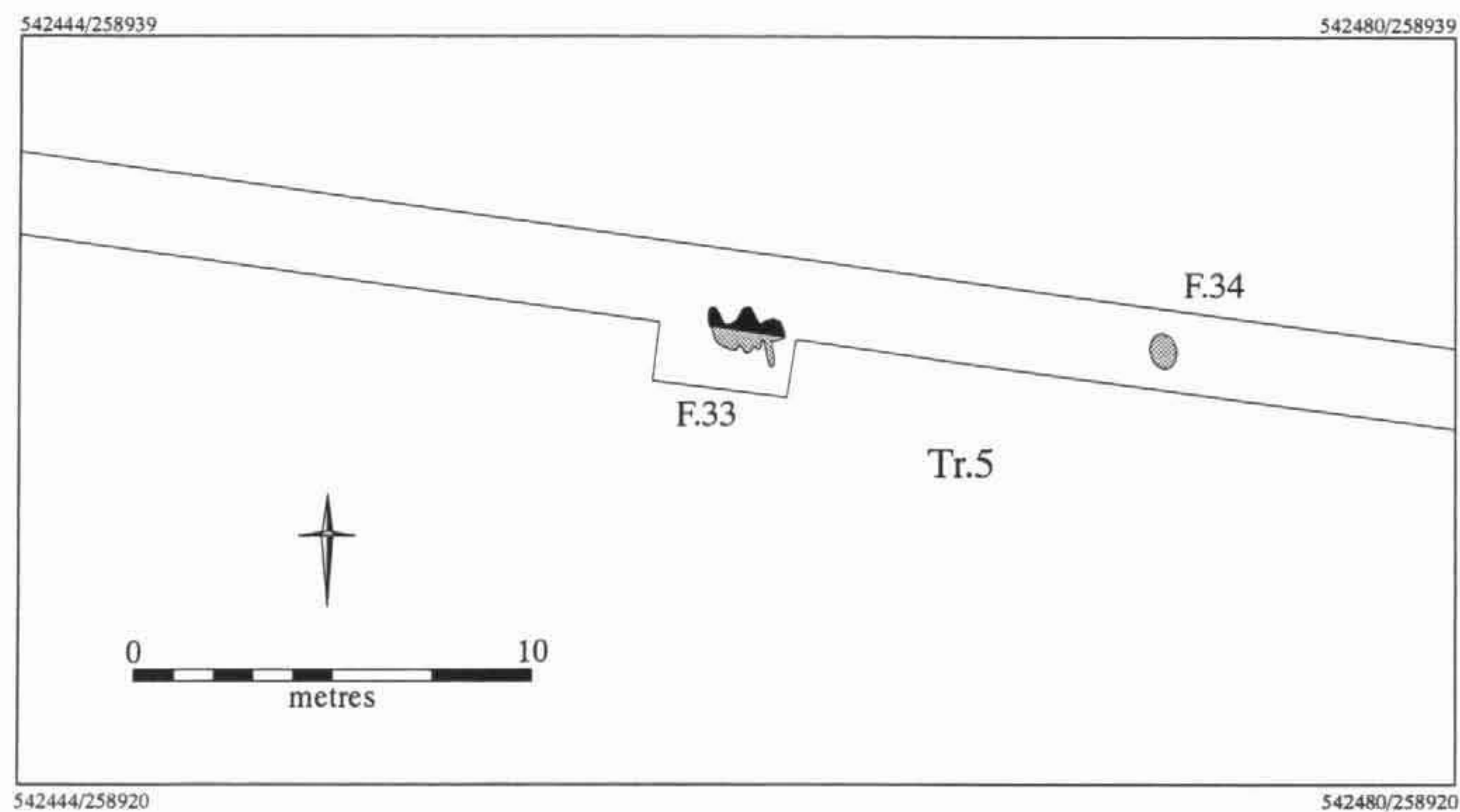


Figure 7

Trench 6

The average machined depth was 0.85m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 18.49m O.D. Only patchy remains of furrows could be seen in this trench.

Trench 7

The average machined depth was 0.55m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth ranging between 17.98m O.D and 16.19m O.D. No features were found in this trench.

Trench 22

The average machined depth was 0.70m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 18.18m in the north-end, changing to a brown orange sandy silt at a depth of 16.87m O.D. in the south end. Five features were found in this trench though only F. 35 produced any artefacts (Figure 8). This curvilinear gully (F. 35) was datable to the early Romano-British period with a group of pottery of cordoned and combed jars and segmented bowl fragments, these could be assigned to the Flavian to Hadrianic period, 70 A.D. - 120/130 A.D. (Appendix 2). Judging by the type of fills, the other features in this

trench were probably also early Roman. Linear butt end F. 37 was on the same alignment as the early Roman enclosure gully F. 18 in Area A.

F. 35 Cut [155 = 163,170], Fill [154 = 162,169]

Ditch aligned north-east to south-west for a length of 4m before turning sharply to the north-west for 2.85m. Width between 0.50 - 0.80m, cut was varied with north-west side [162] being steep sided with a 'V' shaped cut, depth greater than 0.28m. Cut [155] more bowl shaped, gradual sided to a flat base, depth only 0.09m. near vertical sides then gradually sloping to an unknown base. Mid grey, brown, clayey silt fill, rare small pebbles and gravel.

F. 36 Cut [166], Fill [0164], [165]

Linear butt end/corner or pit, jutting out of the section 0.65m, width greater than 0.80m, depth 0.56m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base. Upper fill [164] was a grey brown silty clay, lower fill [165] was a mid grey, silty clay occasional small pebbles.

F. 37 Cut [168], Fill [167]

Linear/gully butt end jutting out of the section 2m aligned east to west, width 0.80m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradual sloping sides to a flattish base. Fill [167] was a mid grey, brown silty clay occasional small pebbles.

F. 38 Cut [151], Fill [150]

Linear butt end or pit, jutting out of the section 0.50m, width greater than 1.50m, depth 0.20m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base. Fill [150] was a dark grey, silty clay, occasional small pebbles and gravel.

F. 39 Cut [153], Fill [152]

Linear/gully butt end jutting out of the section 2m aligned south-east to north-west, width 0.80m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradual sloping sides to a flattish base. Fill [152] was a mottled dark and light grey, silty clay occasional charcoal and small pebbles.

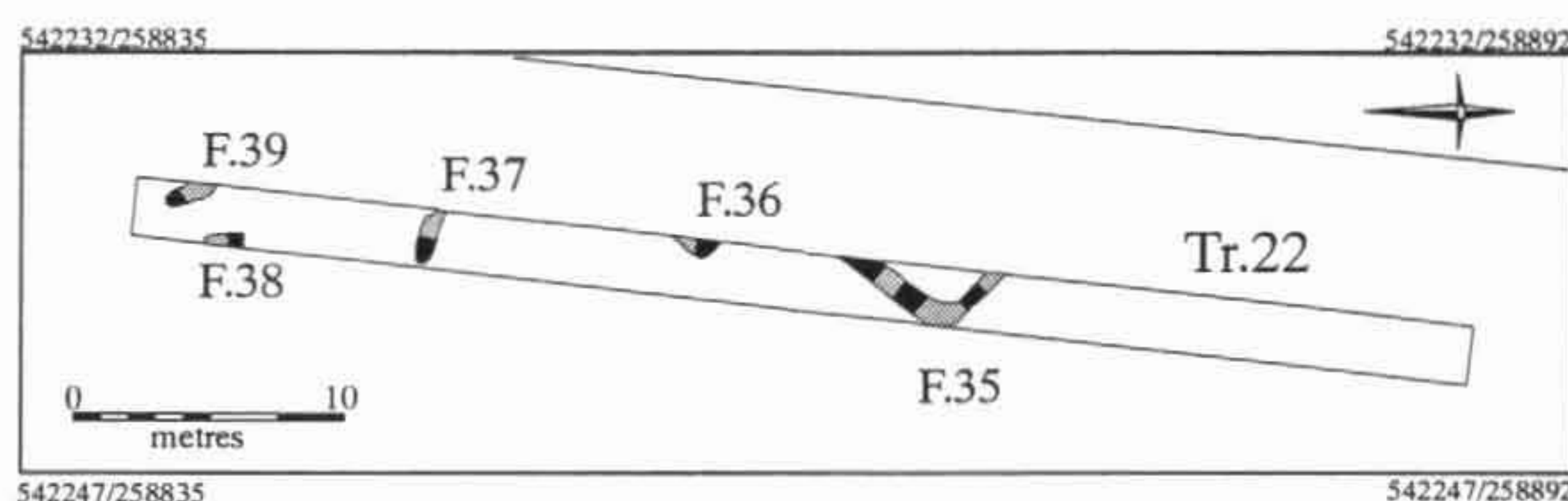


Figure 8

Trench 23

The average machined depth was 0.85m, with a trench length of 30m. The natural was an brown orange slightly clayey, sandy silt found at a depth of 16.10m O.D. This was a judgmental trench machined to try and ascertain whether the ditches found on the other side of the hedgerow in trench 14 were continuing on the same alignment. One ditch was found F. 40 but no finds were retrieved from its fill and it did not appear to align with any of the other ditches (Figure 9).

F. 40 Cut/Fill [161]

Ditch aligned north-east to south-west, width 1.30m, depth 0.70m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base. Yellow grey, slightly clayey silt primary fill with a slightly browner upper fill, rare small pebbles and gravel.

Field 2

The location of the trenches in this field was somewhat limited due to the presence of the demolished wartime buildings, the outline of which can be seen as a dashed line on Figure 3. Some of the trenches had rubble and made-up ground up to 1.2m deep, the truncation from the building on the east side appears to have destroyed any archaeology that might have been present. Archaeology however, did survive adjacent to and beneath where the western building once stood.

Trench 14

The average machined depth was 0.80m, with a trench length of 200m. The natural was a mid brown orange sandy silt with occasional patches of gravel that was found at a depth range between 15.64m and 16.32m O.D. Fourteen features were found in the eastern half of the trench (Figure 10).

F. 44 Cut [095] Fill [096]

Curvilinear gully, semi-circular length of 2.6m, width 0.35m, depth 0.08m. Gullies going beyond the section towards the north. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Mid green, grey, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 45 Cut [109], Fill [108]

Linear butt end or pit, jutting out of the section 0.90m, width greater than 0.60m, depth 0.11m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base, mid grey, brown silty clay, occasional small pebbles and gravel.

F. 46 Cut [094] Fill [093]

Posthole, diameter 0.40m x 0.45m, depth 0.14m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base, mid grey, brown clayey silt fill.

F. 47 Cut [107], Fill [106]

Small oval pit, width 0.90m, length 1.10m, depth 0.19m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Mid grey, brown clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles.

F. 48 Cut [105], Fill [104]

Linear/gully butt end jutting out of the section 2.1m, aligned south-west to north-east, width 0.75m, depth 0.17m, butting in the north. Cut had gradual sloping sides to a flattish base, mid grey, reddish brown clayey silt fill.

F. 49 Cut [103], Fill [102]

Oval pit, width 0.95m, length 2.10m, depth 0.24m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base, mid grey, reddish brown clayey silt fill.

F. 50 Cut [092] Fill [093]

Linear/gully butt end jutting out of the section 0.55m, aligned north to south, width 0.50m, depth 0.19m, butting in the south. Cut had fairly steep sloping sides to a flattish base, mid yellow grey, silt fill.

F. 51 Cut [090] Fill [091]

Linear/gully butt end or posthole jutting out of the section 0.45m, aligned north to south, width 0.45m, depth 0.20m, butting in the south. Cut had fairly steep sloping sides to a flattish base, mid grey, brown silt fill.

F. 52 Cut [182], Fill [183]

Linear aligned south-west to north-east for a length of 11m, width 0.50m, depth 0.20m, apparently butting or cornering in the west. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flattish base. Dark yellow, grey brown, silt fill, rare small pebbles and gravel.

F. 53 Cut [098], Fill [097]

Small oval pit, width 0.75m, length 0.60m, depth 0.19m. Cut had steeply sloping sides to a flat base, dark grey, clayey silt fill, and occasional small pebbles.

F. 54 Cut [139], Fill [138], [136]

Linear/ditch aligned north to south, width 1.10m, depth 0.38m. Cut had a fairly steeply sloping eastern side with a gradually sloping western side to a flattish base. Primary fill was a mixed grey silt and yellow, orange sand and gravel. Upper fill [136] was a grey brown, silty clay, rare small pebbles and gravel.

F. 55 Cut [140], Fill [137], [136]

Ditch aligned north to south, width 2.95m, depth 0.44m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to an uneven base. Primary fill was a mixed grey silt and yellow, orange sand and gravel. Upper fill [136] was a grey brown, silty clay, rare small pebbles and gravel which spread across the two ditches.

F. 56 Cut [086], Fill [085]

Linear/ditch aligned north to south, width 1.10m, depth 0.25m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flattish base. Fill was a patchy dark brown clayey silt, linear was disturbed on its eastern side by an animal burrow or modern posthole.

F. 57 Cut /Fill [141]

Small circular pit, diameter 0.75m, depth 0.19m. Cut had steeply sloping sides to a rounded base, pale grey, clayey silt fill, occasional small pebbles and medium stones >15cm diameter.

Out of the six linears/gullies, four pits, one curvilinear gully and one posthole, only pit F. 53 contained any datable artefacts. Middle to later Iron Age pottery and bone was retrieved from the pit backfill. The two ditches adjacent to each other F. 54 and F. 55 contained only animal bone and burnt flint in the primary fill but scraps of burnt clay, that were probably Iron Age in date were retrieved from the upper fill [136] (Figure 11, Section 1). Layer [135] sealed both the ditches and contained a copper alloy coin. This was badly corroded, but from the size it is assigned a Roman date, possibly late 3rd/4th century A.D. (Challands pers. comm).

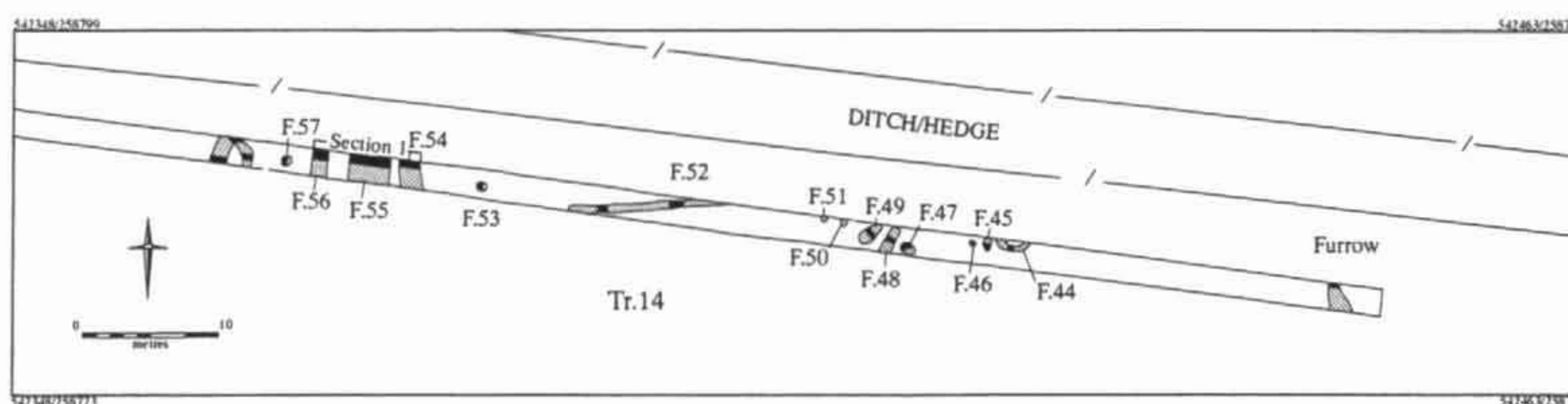


Figure 10

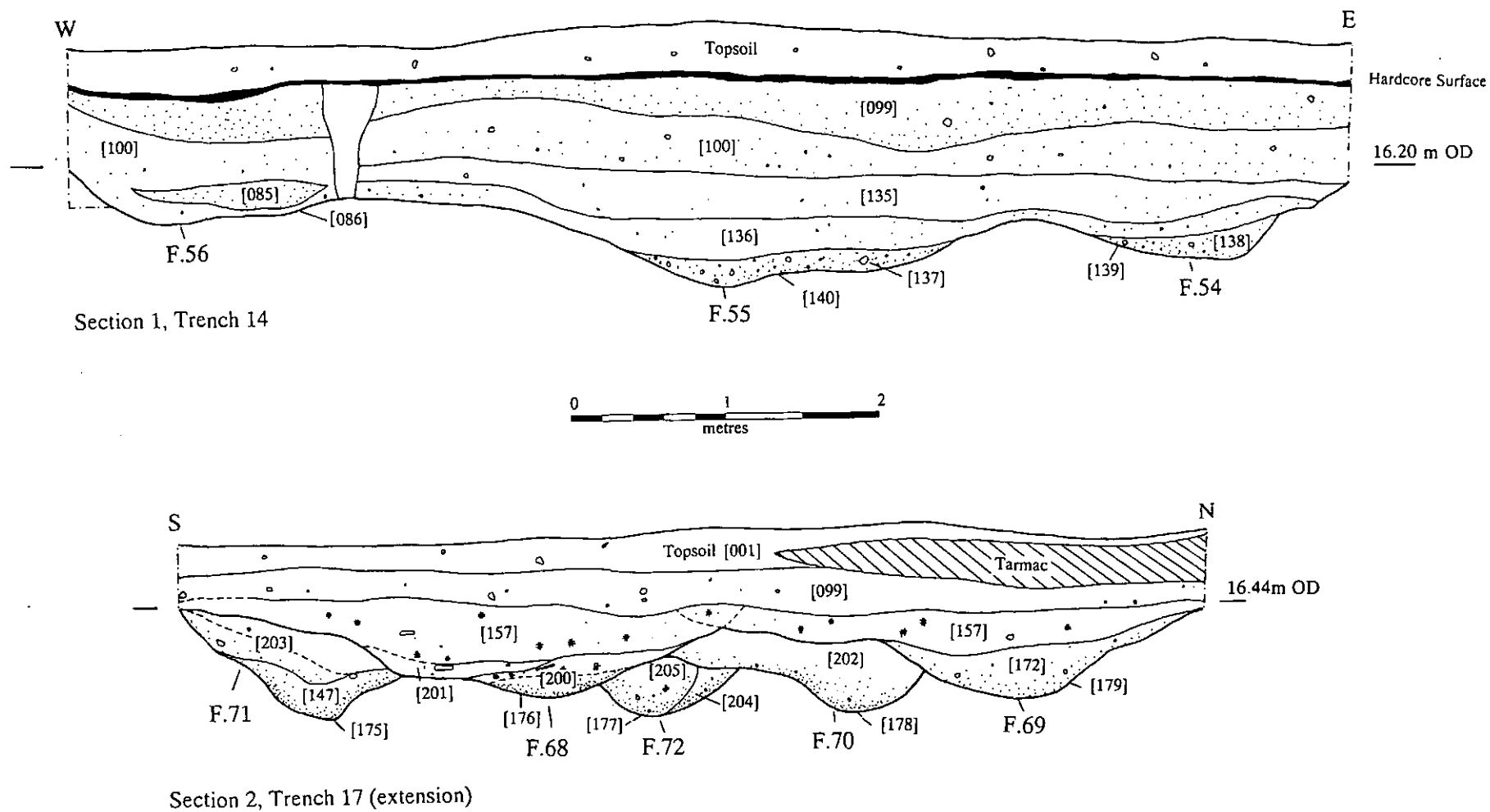


Figure 11

Trench 15

The average machined depth was 0.60m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was a grey blue gault clay with patches of orange sandy silt, found at a depth range between 16.45m and 16.66m O.D. Five features were found in the northern half of the trench (Figure 12), unfortunately not all of the features could be excavated due to the trench flooding. Ditch F. 60 and small pit F. 61 were excavated but no artefacts were retrieved from their shallow fills.

F. 58 Possible eaves-gully curvilinear (not excavated), seen for a length of 2.40m before terminating in the north-east, width 0.45m. Dark grey brown clayey silt fill. Cuts F.59.

F. 59 Linear/ditch (not excavated) aligned north-east to south-west, width 1.60m. Fill was a mid grey brown, silty clay.

F. 60 Cut/Fill [145]

Linear aligned south-west to north-east, width 1.00m, depth 0.20m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base, pale grey, brown, silty clay fill.

F. 61 Cut/Fill [146]

Ovalish pit/tree bowl, width 0.75m x 0.80m, depth 0.10m. Cut was slightly irregular with gradually sloping sides to an uneven base. Fill was a mixed grey and mid orange brown sandy silts.

F. 62 Possible large pit (not excavated), jutting out of the section 1m, width greater than 3.20m. Fill was a mid grey clayey silt.

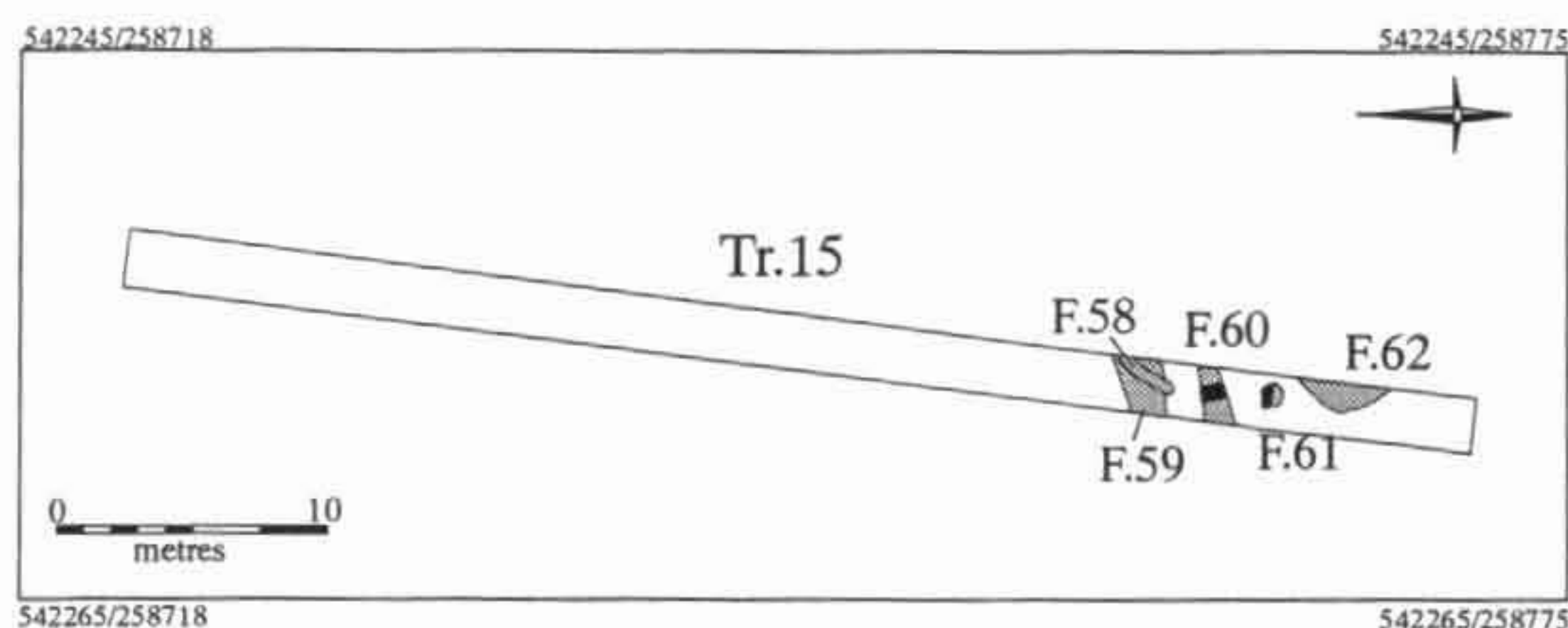


Figure 12

Trench 16

The average machined depth was 0.45m, with a trench length of 100m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 17.70m O.D is trench. Only modern drainage gullies could be seen in this trench.

Trench 17

The average machined depth was 0.55m, with a trench length of 100m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth

ranging between 16.47 and 16.64m O.D. Five features were found in the trench, one pit, two pit/ditch butt ends and two ditches (Figure 13). Aside from F. 67, these were all datable to the Middle to later Iron Age (300 - 1 B.C.). As well as pottery sherds a considerable amount of domestic rubbish such as animal bone and burnt stone was also retrieved from the backfill of the features, suggesting they were situated close to settlement activity. Two fragments of human skull, from a young to middle-aged adult (Dodwell pers. comm) were found in pit/ditch butt F.64, which is not uncommon in the Iron Age. Pit / ditch butt F. 67 had three sherds of Romano-British pottery, 1st/2nd century in date.

F. 63 Cut/Fill [130]

Linear/ditch aligned north to south, width 0.70m, depth 0.20m. Cut was had gradually sloping sides to a flat base, pale yellow grey, silty clay fill. Cuts F. 64.

F. 64 Cut/Fill [131]

Ovalish pit/linear butt end, jutting out of section 0.85m, width greater than 0.45m, depth 0.33m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to an uneven base, mid grey clayey silt fill. Cuts F. 65.

F. 65 Cut [171], Fill [132], [133], [149]

Ditch aligned north-east curving slightly to the south where it terminates, length seen 8m, width 1.80m, depth 0.56m. Cut was bowl shaped with gradually sloping sides to a flattish base. Primary fill [149] was a light grey clay, with occasional gravel inclusions. Upper fill [132] was a mid grey, brown, silty clay, occasional charcoal flecking and iron panning flecks, rare small pebbles and gravel. Fill [133] at butt end was a pale greyish brown clay. Cut by F. 64 and F. 66.

F. 66 Cut/Fill [134]

Oval pit, width greater than 0.75m, length 1.25m, depth 0.11m. Cut had fairly steeply sloping sides to a flat base, dark blackish, brown, clayey silt fill, and occasional small pebbles. Cut by modern disturbance on east.

F. 67 Cut/Fill [156]

Irregular shaped pit/ ditch butt end, jutting out of section 1.8m, width 1.85m, depth 0.29m. Cut had fairly gradual sloping sides to a flat base, mid brown, silty clay fill, occasional small pebbles.

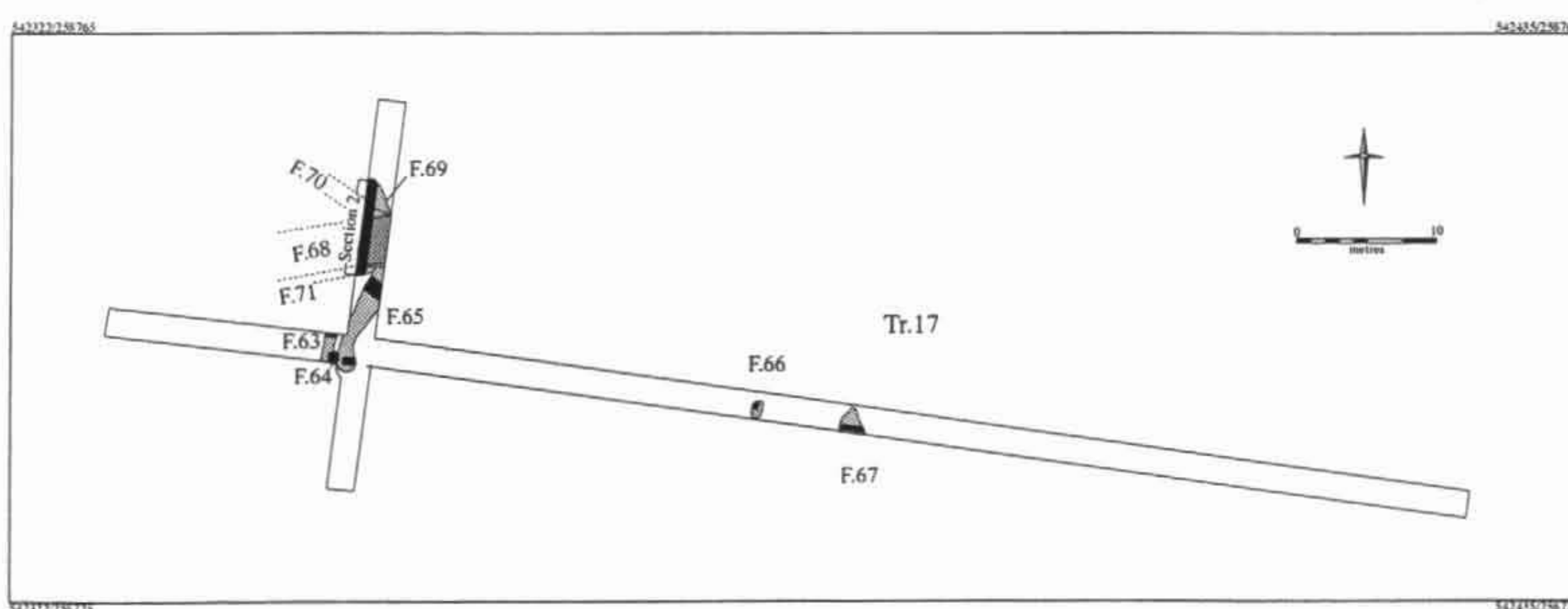


Figure 13

The trench was extended to investigate whether the Iron Age features continued and whether the nearby 1940s buildings had truncated the archaeology in this area. A further 26m of trench was machined at right angles to the original trench. The

continuation of ditch F. 65 could be seen along with a large spread of fill, which was concealing a further four ditches and one pit. Ditch butt F.69 is possibly the continuation of F. 65 but as ditch F. 68 is cutting through them both it is difficult to be certain. A large quantity of pottery sherds and animal bone were retrieved from the slot excavated through the inter-cutting features. Although all the pottery was of the same Middle to later Iron Age date there was at least three phases of features cutting each other (Figure 11, Section 2). The earliest being ditch F. 71 and pit F.72, with ditch F. 68 being the latest feature. Ditch F. 68 is probably reinforcing an enclosure boundary re-cutting the original ditch F. 71, which holds the same alignment. The upper fill [157/148] of ditches F. 68 and F. 69 were indiscernible from each other and contained over 100 fragments of animal bone including horse as well as domesticated sheep/goat, pig and cattle bone (Clarke, Appendix 2). Four pieces of slag [157] were also found which may indicate industrial activity was taking place in the vicinity.

F. 68 Cut [176], Fill [200], [201], [148/157]

Ditch aligned north-east to south-west, width 3.50m, depth 0.66m. Cut was bowl shaped with gradually sloping sides to a step on the south side, continuing to a flattish base. Primary fill [200] was a mid grey brown slightly clayey silt, with upper lens of charcoal and orange sandy patches. Mid fill [201] was a mixed orange and grey patchy slightly clayey silt. Upper fill [148] was a mid reddish grey, brown, clayey silt, frequent charcoal and occasional small stone and flint inclusions. Latest ditch cuts F.69? -72.

F. 69 Cut [179], Fill [172], [157]

Ditch butt/pit aligned north-west to south-east, width 1.30m, depth 0.58m. Cut was bowl shaped with gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Primary fill [172] was a light grey tan brown, sandy, silty clay. Upper fill [157] was a mid reddish grey, brown, clayey silt, frequent charcoal and occasional small stone and flint inclusions. Cuts F.70.

F. 70 Cut [178], Fill [202]

Ditch aligned north-west to south-east, width greater than 1.70m, depth 0.44m. Cut was stepped on its southern side, gradually sloping to a rounded base. Fill was a light brown, orange sandy, silty clay, rare charcoal flecks. Heavily truncated by F. 69 and F. 68, cutting F. 72.

F. 71 Cut [175], Fill [147], [203]

Ditch aligned north-east to south-west, width greater than 1.40m, depth 0.56m. Cut was stepped slightly on both sides steeply sloping to a flattish base. Primary fill [147] was mid orangey, grey silty sand. Upper fill [203] was pale orangey, beige, silty sand with white speckles of chalk/marl. Truncated by F. 68 and possibly F. 65.

F. 72 Cut [177], Fill [204], [205]

Ditch butt/pit aligned east to west, width greater than 0.90m, depth 0.38m. Cut was 'U' shaped with gradually sloping sides to a rounded base. Primary fill [204] was a pale beige orange, silty, clayey sand, slumping of the natural. Main fill [157] was a mid grey, brown, slightly clayey, sandy silt, occasional charcoal and small stones.

Trench 18

The average machined depth was 0.85m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 16.21m O.D. There were no archaeological features found in this trench, the ground was disturbed by the demolition of the building that once stood in this area.

Trench 19

The average machined depth was 1.20m, with a trench length of 67m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 15.75m O.D. There were no archaeological features found in this trench, the ground was disturbed by the construction and demolition of the war-time buildings

Trench 20

The average machined depth was 1.40m, with a trench length of 100m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 17.21m O.D. There were no archaeological features found in this trench, but an earlier buried soil/alluvium [173] and plough soil [174] had been sealed by a thick (0.60m) layer of re-deposited clay, presumably laid down during construction work in the 1940s. Late Medieval 15th/16th century pottery and later Post Medieval glass and tile were found in layer [173] with a coin dating to 1578, Elizabeth 1st, found in the lower layer [174].

Trench 21

The average machined depth was 0.65m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches found at a depth of 17.21m O.D. There were no archaeological features found in this trench, and the layers found in trench 20 must have been truncated by the landscaping after the demolition in the 1970s.

Trench 24

The average machined depth was 0.65m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches, found at a depth ranging between 16.40m and 16.77m O.D. Two linears and two small pit/postholes were found, though no artefacts were retrieved from their shallow depths (Figure 14).

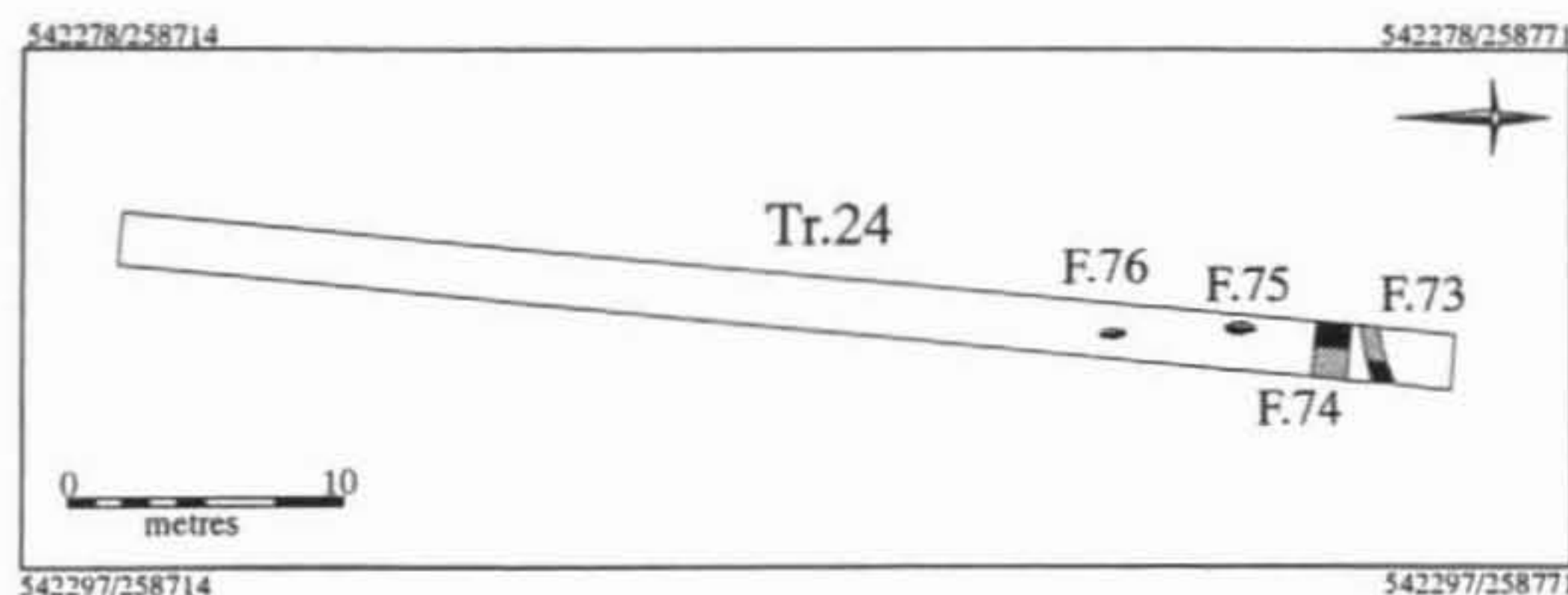


Figure 14

F. 73 Cut/Fill [158]

Linear aligned south-west to north-east, width 0.72m, depth 0.20m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base, mid grey, brown, silty clay fill, occasional charcoal flecks, rare gravel inclusions.

F. 74 Cut/Fill [155]

Linear aligned east to west, width 1.25m, depth 0.15m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base, pale grey, brown, silty clay fill.

F. 75 Cut/Fill [159]

Base of posthole/ small pit, length 1.10m, width 0.40m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light grey brown silty clay fill, rare gravel inclusions.

F. 76 Cut/Fill [160]

Base of posthole/ small pit, length 0.92m, width 0.30m, depth 0.06m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light grey brown silty clay fill, occasional charcoal and gravel inclusions.

Trench 26

The average machined depth ranged between 0.75m in the south end to 1.25m in the north end of the trench, which was 73.5m in length. The natural was grey blue gault clay with orange gritty sandy clay patches in the south at 15.75 O.D. and becoming more orange brown sandy silt in the north at a depth of 14.21m O.D. There were no archaeological features found in this trench. Two natural in-filled hollows, one being a possible tree bowl were identified; no artefacts were retrieved from their fills. The buried soil layers seen in trench 20 were seen to continue beneath the modern overburden.

Field 3

The locations of the trenches in this field were restricted by a spoil heap and the on going construction of a new road in the northern half of the field.

Trench 8

The average machined depth was 0.55m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was brown, orange, sandy, clayey silt, found at a depth ranging between 15.41m and 14.62m O.D. Remnants of a furrow aligned north-east to south-west and naturally silt in-filled hollows were the only features found in this trench.

Trench 9

The average machined depth was 0.52m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was brown, orange, sandy, clayey silt, found at a depth ranging between 15.76m and 14.59m O.D. Only plough marks were found in this trench.

Trench 10

The average machined depth was 0.60m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was brown, orange, sandy, clayey silt, found at a depth of ranging between 14.54m and 14.30m O.D. No features were found in this trench.

Trench 11

The average machined depth was 0.65m, with a trench length of 50m. The natural was brown, orange, sandy, clayey silt, found at a depth ranging between 15.42m and 14.28m O.D. One possible pit, F. 77 was found, it was very shallow and contained no finds and is possibly just a natural feature (Figure 15).

F. 77 Cut/Fill [057]

Small oval pit, length 0.90m, width 0.75m, depth 0.16m. Cut had gradually sloping sides to a flat base. Light yellow grey silty clay fill, occasional gravel inclusions.

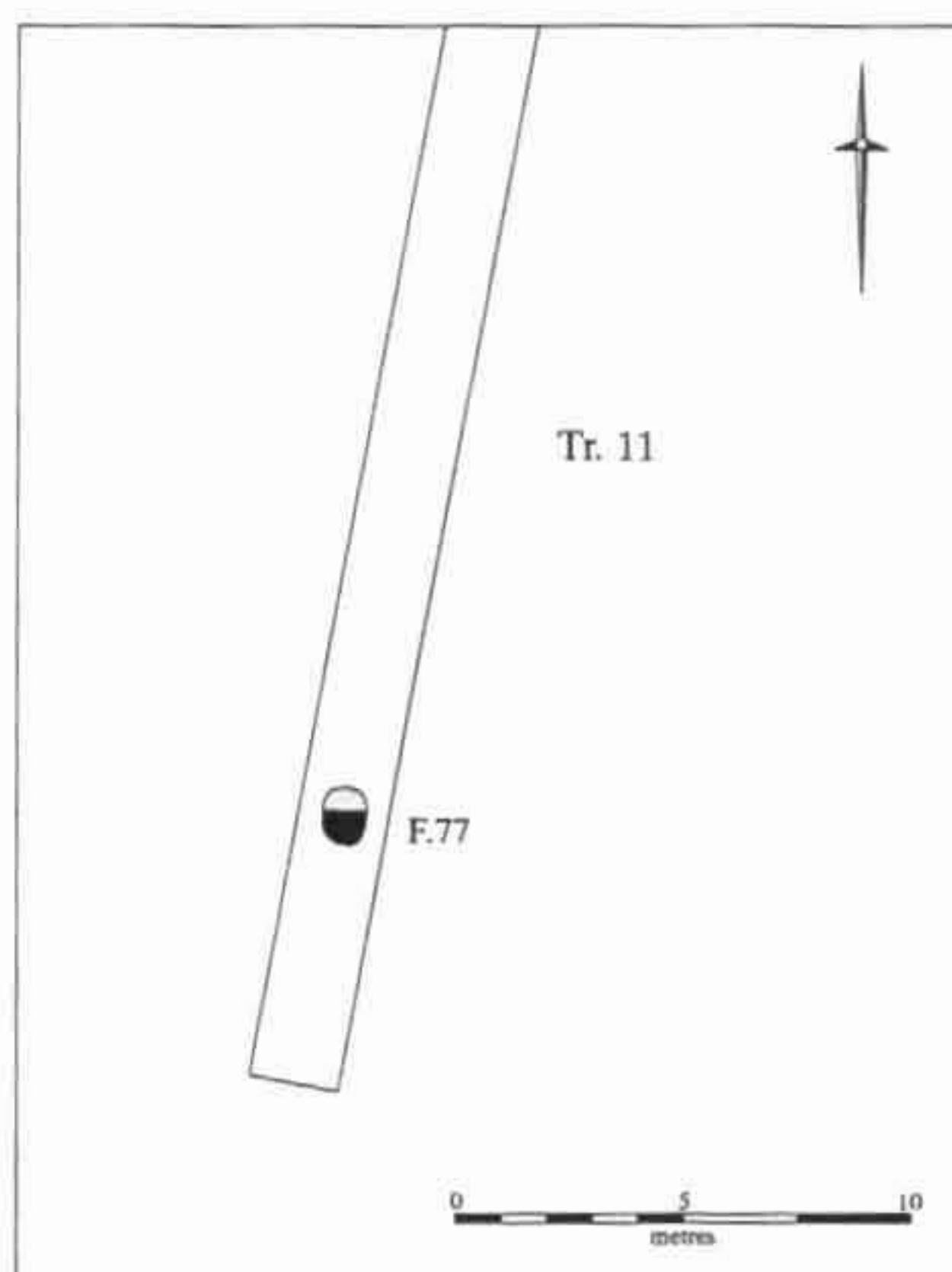


Figure 15

Trench 12

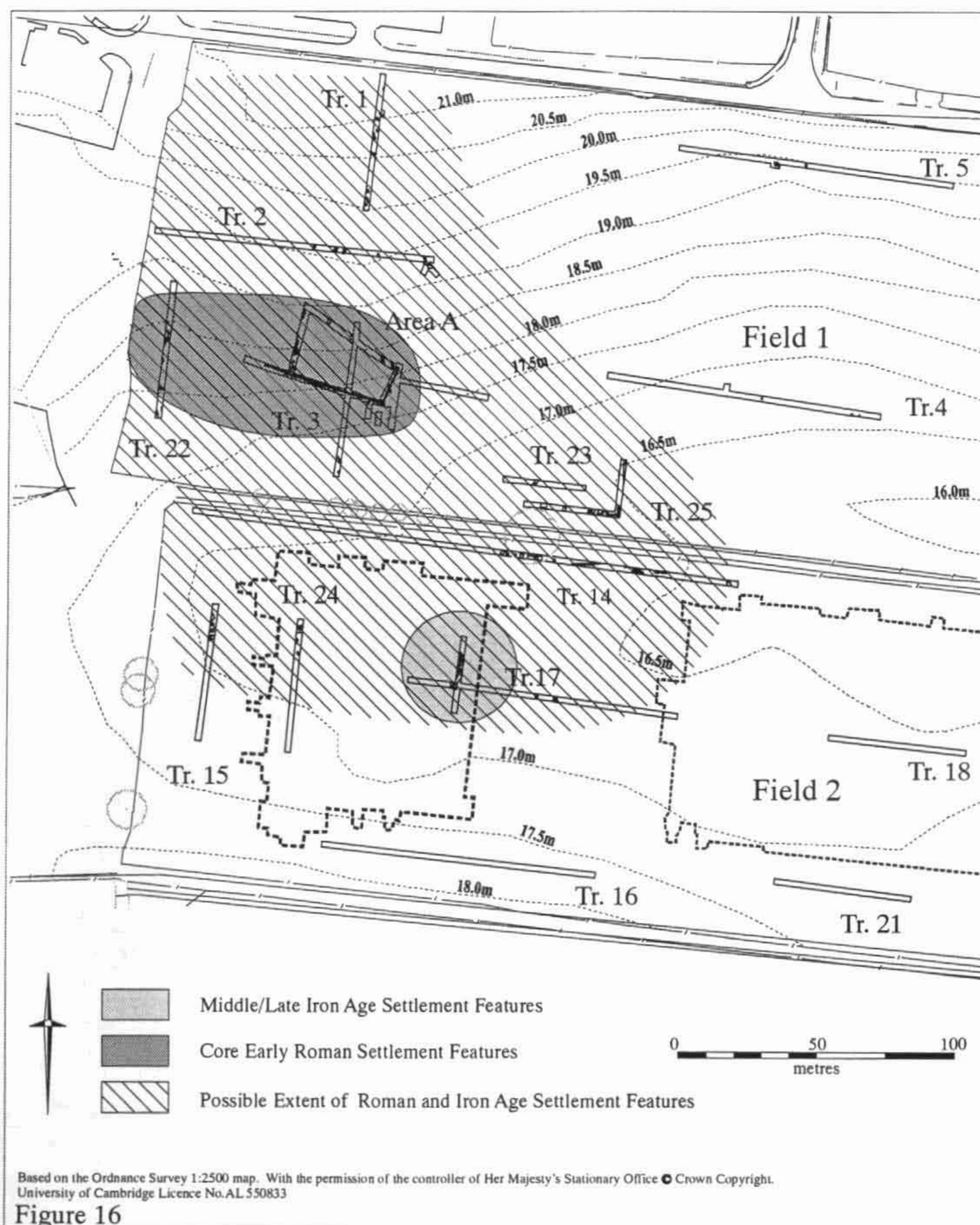
The average machined depth was 0.45m, with a trench length of 111m. The natural was brown, orange, sandy, clayey silt, becoming more grey gault clay like in the north end, found at a depth ranging between 16.24m and 14.16m O.D. No features were found in this trench.

Discussion

The earliest artefacts found were the residual fragments of Bronze Age pottery and the handful of Bronze Age/Early Iron Age flint work, found in the later features (Conneller, Appendix 2). These indicate there is a background Bronze Age presence in this area. However, the presence of the flint and pottery scraps suggests there is potential for more substantive Bronze Age activity to be uncovered. Although previously, heavy clay subsoils are thought to have been avoided prior to the late Iron Age, more recent excavations are finding this not to be the case (Evans, forthcoming, a). Recent investigations on the Isle of Ely, such as at West Fen Road (Mortimer 2000, Regan 2001) have evidenced in the form of flint scatters that there was 'activity' on the Kimmeridge Clays in the Bronze Age and earlier periods. The most recent example is from excavations near West Fen Road just off the A10, where a large natural hollow with associated burnt flint pits, late Bronze Age in date, were uncovered. An Iron Age and early Roman settlement complex was also found there (Masser & Evans 1999, Masser forthcoming).

The features found on the High Cross site indicate an area of Middle to later Iron Age and early Roman settlement, confined to the western limits of Field 1 and 2. Two more specific concentrations or main settlement areas defined by feature and artefact density are highlighted on Figure 16; this could attest to a slight shift in settlement between the two periods. The early Roman settlement is concentrated around the south-west corner of Field 1, the Iron Age appears more scattered, but has a focus around the west side of Field 2.

The early Roman enclosure gullies and possible eaves-gullies have all been heavily truncated by Medieval and Post-Medieval ploughing, and often only the bases of the features survived, making finds retrieval poor. Out of the 40 sherds of pottery, the majority could only be assigned a general early Roman date of 1st/2nd century. However, one good assemblage (F. 35, Trench 22) contained a number of Flavian-Hadrianic vessels c. 70-120/130 AD. If this is taken to be indicative of the date range to the whole site, it suggests that Romano-British settlement in this area spanned no more than half a century (Lucas, Appendix 3). The lack of finds and charred remains from the environmental samples confirms this was probably a fairly short-lived settlement. There certainly does not appear to be much evidence for continued use of the enclosure in the form of re-cutting of the ditches, nor midden build-up suggesting a continued settlement over a number of generations. The archaeological evidence suggests the site was abandoned in the mid/late 2nd century A.D. It could be speculated that there was a shift over to the Vicar's farm site c. 800m to the north-west, which was rapidly expanding in the 2nd/3rd centuries, with settlement continuation through to the end of the Roman period in the early 5th century. Surprisingly no features were found in Field 3 to show any spread further to the south-west of the Vicar's Farm Roman settlement.



The concentration of Iron Age activity can be seen in Trench 17, Field 2; out of the 155 sherds of Iron Age pottery found in total, over 100 were retrieved from the cluster of features in that trench alone. Although no actual settlement features such as eaves-gullies or post-hole structures were found, the domestic rubbish recovered such as animal bone, burnt stone and burnt clay is indicative that settlement must have been in the near vicinity. The slag residues that were found in the ditch fills, may evidence industrial activity might have been taking place. Two pieces of human skull from the same individual were found in pit F. 64. It is uncertain what the incorporating of human remains within ditches and pits actually means. Is it indicative of violent or sacrificial ritual behavior, or even an example of cannibalism? Numerous Iron Age

sites including Wardy Hill (Evans 1992 & Evans, forthcoming, b) and more recently Hurst Lane, Ely (Evans & Knight 2000), have evidenced similar deposition within their settlement features, showing that definite evidence of human bone/body 'manipulation' was taking place. The majority of the Middle to later Iron Age pottery found in the evaluation was plant tempered, which is still fairly unusual on British Iron Age sites. Comparison within Cambridge, however, can be made with the Marion Close site, where this type of pottery was also found (Mortimer & Evans 1997). Other comparable Iron Age pottery assemblages can be found at the Milton Sewerage Works (Reynolds 1994) and the Middle Iron Age settlement at Greenhouse Farm, Newmarket Road (Hinman 1997). It is interesting to note that only one sherd of wheel turned 'Belgic' pot of 1st century AD date was found, and that was in the Romano-British enclosure ditch in Area A. The omission of this type of pottery is unusual for a late Iron Age continuation into the Roman-British period. It suggests the concentration of occupation was primarily in the Middle Iron Age, with the settlement possibly being more or less abandoned prior to the Roman conquest.

The Iron Age settlement evidence of inter-cutting features and the quantity of domestic rubbish retrieved may indicate occupation of an area over a number of generations possibly spanning the 300 years of the Middle to later Iron Age. The early Roman settlement activity evidenced here is probably a small rural community situated in the town's western hinterland. The shift of settlement and pottery evidences a slight break in the continuation of settlement around the late Iron Age/Roman conquest period in the 1st century AD. The land is then apparently left unutilised until the Medieval/Post-Medieval period when it was incorporated into the 'West Fields' of Cambridge and agriculturally worked.

Acknowledgements

The site assistants were Marcus Abbot, Phil Church, Graeme Clarke, John Foulkes and Johnny Hall, directed by the author, with Dickersons driver Robin machining the trenches; Norma Challands and Sharon Webb processed the finds; Marc Berger and Crane Begg produced the computer graphics and Andy Hall inked up the sections for this report. Chris Evans provided project management and would like to thank the Estates Management Services, especially Steve Fallon of the University of Cambridge, who commissioned the project, thanks also to Andrew Merrick of Shepherds for his help on site. Finally Simon Kaner from the County Council Archaeology section monitored the excavation.

Appendix 1: Environmental Samples R. Ballantyne

Samples from one Iron Age ditch fill [157] and two Roman ditch fills [067] and [170] were examined. All samples were processed by hand using bucket flotation. The flots were collected with a 300 μ m sieve, and the heavy residue subsequently washed over 1mm mesh. Both flots and residues were dried prior to scanning under a low-power binocular microscope. Identifications were made using the reference collection of the Pitt-Rivers Laboratory, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge. All botanical nomenclature follows Stace (1997).

Results

Very low amounts of charred plant macro-remains are present in all three contexts, there is no preservation by waterlogging or mineralisation. Some molluscan remains also occur within the flots. The shells appear to be mainly archaeological, although those of the burrowing snail *Cecilioides acicula* clearly are not. There are low amounts of intrusive, modern plant seeds and roots, particularly in the two Roman contexts.

Within Iron Age ditch fill [157] there is a little charcoal, which is mainly small, and a low amount of vitrified charcoal. No other charred plant remains are identifiable. A very few land snails are also present, which do not provide any clear environmental information.

Roman ditch fill [067] contains one fragment of a glume-wheat grain (*Triticum spelta/dicoccum*) in addition to low amounts of generally small charcoal. A proportion of this charcoal is vitrified, and some porous, concreted material is also present. This material suggests that at some point intense burning conditions were present. Again, only a few land snails occur, of *Vallonia* sp. and *Trichia* sp., which do not provide any clear environmental information.

Roman ditch fill [170] contains one indeterminate cereal grain, and one spelt or emmer wheat glume base. There are low amounts of charcoal and vitrified charcoal. The mollusc remains are slightly greater within this context, and are general land snails, with the exception of *Lymnaea* c.f. *trunculata*, which suggests occasional flooding of this context.

Conclusions

The low amount of charred remains may be preservational or alternatively linked to originally limited amounts of burning events, or debris thereof, at the site. The fragmented charcoal recovered appears to represent surface material, which has gradually become incorporated into the ditch contexts. At the nearby site of Vicar's Farm (Lucas & Whittaker in prep.) preservation of charred plant remains has been good and indicates cereal processing, which suggests that the absence of material here may be due to a difference in the activities occurring on the two sites.

Results Table (1)

sample number		<1>	<3>	<5>
context		[170]	[067]	[157]
feature		F.35	F.18	
description		encl., Ditch	narrow ditch	ditch
phase/date		Roman	Roman	Iron Age
sample volume/ litres		12	15	15
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> glume base	spelt/emmer chaff	1		
<i>Triticum spelta/dicoccum</i> grain	spelt/emmer wheat grain		1	
cereal grain indet.		1		
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	stinging nettle	- u		
<i>Chenopodium album</i>	fat-hen	+ u		
<i>Chenopodium polyspermum</i>	many-seeded goosefoot	- u	- u	
<i>Atriplex patula/prostrata</i>	common/spear-leaved orache	- u	- u	
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	elder	- u		
<i>Carduus/Cirsium</i> sp.	thistle	- u		
small charcoal (<2mm)		++	+++	+++
med. charcoal (2-4mm)		+	++	++
large charcoal (>4mm)		+	+	+
- vitrified charcoal		+	++	-
charred concretion			+	
<i>Lymnaea</i> c.f. <i>trunculata</i>	stagnant and slow water	++		
<i>Cochlicopa</i> sp.	catholic			-
<i>Columnella/Pupilla</i> sp.		- juvenile		
<i>Vertigo</i> sp.				-
<i>Vallonia</i> sp.			+	
<i>Trichia</i> sp.	catholic	+ juvenile	-	2 juvenile
intrusive insect remains		-		
intrusive roots		+++	+++	+
<i>Cecilioides acicula</i>	intrusive, burrowing snail	++	++	

KEY:

'u' uncharred, probably modern

'-' 1 or 2 cases

'+' less than 10 cases

'++' 10 to 50 cases

'+++' greater than 50 cases

Appendix 2: Flint C. Conneller

Eight pieces of worked flint were recovered. Of these five are squat flakes, with broad butts which lack preparation. One additionally bears irregular retouch. The pieces are likely to date to the Bronze Age/Early Iron Age. The remaining pieces consist of a flake and two fragments. These pieces are finer in character. One could possibly represent a distal micro-burin (thus indicating a Mesolithic date); however it is not a classic example and the slight notch displayed on this piece could simply represent spontaneous retouch along a natural break. No burnt flint was recovered.

Appendix 3: Roman Pottery G. Lucas

A small group of Roman pottery (40 sherds, 680g) was examined to provide a date range and general characterisation of the assemblage. Most of the groups were very small and contained only a few sherds, mostly undiagnostic except to an early Roman attribution (i.e. 1st/2nd century). There were however three larger assemblages ([060], [061] and [154]), of which one was particularly informative. Context [154] contained a good group of Flavian-Hadrianic vessels including cordoned jars, combed jars and a segmental bowl. If this group can be taken as indicative of the date range as a whole, then Roman activity on the site probably spans no more than half a century - c. AD 70-120/130. No imports or finewares were recorded in the groups and all the pottery is probably of local manufacture.

Appendix 4: Iron Age Pottery J.D. Hill

The pottery at High Cross represents a fairly well preserved, small assemblage of Middle to later Iron Age date (c. 300-1 B.C.). A brief visual examination was carried out to provide an assessment of the characterisation and date range of the assemblage.

One hundred and fifty five sherds (928g) were assessed; all were small to medium sized, mostly body sherds and very fragmented with only one vessel profile apparent. Besides one sherd of 'Aylesford swarling' or 'Belgic' wheel-turned pot of 1st century A.D. [063] date the assemblage is predominately handmade pottery from the Middle to later Iron Age period. That is 3rd/1st century B.C. in date, though it could range into the 1st century A.D. The only profile is of a form, which could be an early Middle Iron Age type but this was from ditch fill [157], which contained a majority of Middle Iron Age pottery types. The sherds are predominately sandy wares with some shelly but mostly plant tempered, very little burnished or scored pottery was apparent, the pottery is representative of a plain ware assemblage (see Hill a & b, forthcoming for a fuller discussion of this material and its dating). A small number (four scrappy fragments) of residual Late Bronze Age sherds were also found in the Iron Age and early Roman features.

Comparable Iron Age assemblages within Cambridge can be found at the Milton Sewage Works (Reynolds 1994), the Middle Iron Age settlement at 'Greenhouse Farm, Newmarket Road (Hinman 1997) and at Marion Close, off Huntingdon Road (Mortimer & Evans 1997). The latter also included a number of plant-tempered sherds, which are still fairly unusual on British Iron Age sites.

Although this evaluation produced only a small pottery assemblage, the sherds came from a cluster of less than ten features, with 66 sherds coming from just one context [157], the upper fill of a ditch. This implies the potential the site has in producing further larger assemblages of Middle to later Iron Age pottery.

Appendix 5: The Faunal Remains A. Clarke

A small assemblage of faunal material numbering 194 fragments of bone was recovered from various features across the site, dating from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Due to the small size of the assemblage it was possible inspect all the bone material. This was done in order to identify any data that might aid in the overall interpretation of the site. All bone was identified using the reference collection of the Cambridge Archaeological Unit and Schmid (1972). No attempt was made at this stage to differentiate between the remains of sheep and goat and consequently such bones are quoted as sheep/goat.

Species	Iron Age	Roman	Total
Cattle	16	3	19
Sheep/goat	9	1	10
Pig	6	1	7
Horse	4	0	4
Unidentifiable	135	19	154
Total	170	24	194

Table 2: Number of identified specimens by species (NISP).

As can be seen from Table 2 above, it was the Iron Age features that produced the majority of the assemblage which were limited to fragmentary remains of cattle, sheep/goat and horse. The Romano-British features produced only remains of cattle and sheep/goat. The information that can be gleaned from such a small assemblage is very limited and realistically cannot provide any further information beyond confirming the presence of domestic animals on the site.

It must be noted that the bone is in a fairly good state of preservation. This situation bodes well for the recovery of a larger, more informative assemblage should excavation take place over a wider area in the future. If such an assemblage were recovered, then it would benefit greatly from being analysed in conjunction with the faunal remains recovered from the nearby site of Vicars Farm.

Appendix 6: Finds Catalogue

Cat. No.	Context	Mat.	Num.	Area	Location	Notes	Wt.(g)
001	002	PT	1		TR 2	Post-Med; 17th/18th C	21
002	002	BC	1		TR 5	subsoil of 002, inc frags	1
003	002	FL	1		TR 4		10
004	016	OT	2		TR 2	shell, 1 oyster, 1 mussel	2
005	026	BC	1		TR 5		3
006	026	BF	9		TR 5	discarded	101
007	027	PT	1		TR 5	Roman; 1st/2nd C	13
008	027	BC	1		TR 5		8
009	028	BF	11		TR 5	discarded	91
010	028	BS	2		TR 5		17
011	038	PT	2		TR 2	modern; 19th C	11
012	038	TL	2		TR 2		13
013	038	TP	1		TR 2		2
014	038	OT	1		TR 2	coal	2
015	059	PT	1		TR 9	modern?	1
016	059	BN	1		TR 9		7
017	059	TL	2		TR 9		30
018	059	BC	2		TR 9		15
019	059	BT	1		TR 9		40
020	059	GL	1		TR 9		1
021	059	TP	1		TR 9		5
022	059	OT	3		TR 9	coal	8
023	060	BC	1	A			2
024	060	BF	1	A		discarded	8
025	60B	PT	1	A		Roman-1st c	3
026	60C	PT	2	A		R B; incl. large jar rim	127
027	061	PT	12	A		Roman; late 1st/2nd C	134
028	061	BN	1	A		? butchery	10
029	076	PT	1	A	TR 2	late 12 Cth rim, very abraded; pos Roman	4
030	061	BC	1	A		scrappy Roman	2
031	061	FL	4	A		2 discarded; natural	14
032	061	WS	1	A		one worked surface	12
033	61A	PT	1	A		R B storage jar	47
034	61A	OT	1	A		? iron panning	80
035	062	PT	1	A		mid-late I.A.-plant tempered	4
036	062	TL	1	A		Post med.?	1
037	062	BS	1	A			68
038	062	OT	2	A		cinder	3
039	063	PT	4	A		wheelmade late I.A.- 1st c AD	8
040	063	FL	1	A			5
041	063	OT	1	A		cinder	1
042	065	PT	3	A		scrappy late B.A.	4
043	65A	PT	1	A		Post med. 17th/18th C	5
044	65A	TL	1	A			19

Cat. No.	Context	Mat.	Num.	Area	Location	Notes	Wt.(g)
045	65A	OT	1	A		cinder	1
046	066	PT	1	A		handmade mid-late I.A.	3
047	066	FL	2	A		natural, discarded	2
048	066	BS	1	A			44
049	071	TL	1		TR 2		17
050	071	MR	1		TR 2		22
051	079	BC	3		TR 3	lightly fired	7
052	083	BN	3		TR 3		2
053	083	FL	2		TR 3	1 natural, discarded	8
054	087	FL	1		TR 14	natural, discarded	2
055	097	PT	3		TR 14	handmade mid-late I.A.	9
056	097	BN	1		TR 14		3
057	097	FL	1		TR 14		1
058	099	FL	1		TR 14	subsoil	5
059	113	PT	1	A			1
060	113	BF	1	A		discarded	359
061	113	BS	2	A			12
062	129	PT	2			residual late B.A.	3
063	130	PT	36		TR 17	inc frags; handmade mid-late I.A.	197
064	130	BN	12		TR 17		202
065	130	BS	6		TR 17		178
066	131	PT	4		TR 17	handmade mid-late I. A.	24
067	131	BN	7		TR 17	inc frag human skull, 1 animal tooth	211
068	131	BF	1		TR 17	discarded	34
069	131	BS	2		TR 17		180
070	132	PT	17		TR 17	handmade mid-late I.A.	132
071	132	BN	12		TR 17	inc antler	80
072	132	BC	1		TR 17		15
073	133	PT	1		TR 17	handmade mid-late I.A.	5
074	133	BN	3		TR 17	inc ?butchery	67
075	133	BF	1		TR 17	discarded	68
076	134	PT	6		TR 17	handmade mid-late I.A.	31
077	134	BN	3		TR 17	I. A.	32
078	134	PT	1		TR 17	I. A. abraded	4
079	134	FL	2		TR 17	natural, discarded	6
080	134	OT	1		TR 17	? roofing felt	1
081	135	BN	2		TR 14		12
082	135	FL	1		TR 14	natural, discarded	4
083	136	BC	3		TR 14	I. A.	9
084	137	BN	1		TR 14		35
085	137	BF	3		TR14	discarded	13
086	147	PT	7		TR 17	Primary deposit; handmade mid-late I. A.	93
087	147	BN	22		TR 17	Primary deposit, inc ? butchery	113
088	148	PT	5		TR 17	handmade mid-late I. A.	22
089	148	BN	56		TR 17	inc teeth, some in situ	606
090	148	FL	1		TR 17		14

Cat. No.	Context	Mat.	Num.	Area	Location	Notes	Wt.(g)
091	148	BS	1		TR 17	slightly burnt	66
092	149	PT	7		TR 17	handmade mid-late I. A.	15
093	149	BN	19		TR 17	inc horn core, teeth	262
094	154	PT	17		TR 22	inc 2=1 rim. Good group inc cordoned and combed jars and segmented bowl; Roman; Flavian or Hadrianic	328
095	156	PT	3		TR 17	R B 1st/2nd C	25
096	157	PT	53		TR 17	handmade mid-late I. A.	320
097	157	BN	55		TR 17	inc teeth	119
098	157	BC	5		TR 17		4
099	157	FL	1		TR 17		2
100	157	BS	5		TR 17		171
101	157	SL	1		TR 17		10
102	157	OT	1		TR 17	cinder	1
103	157	OT	1		TR 17	slaggy coal	2
104	157 surface	PT	16		TR 17	Early I. A.? & mid-late I. A	58
105	157 surface	BN	5		TR 17		10
106	157 surface	BC	1		TR 17		1
107	157 surface	FL	1		TR 17	natural, discarded	1
108	157 surface	SL	3		TR 17		33
109	157 surface	BS	4		TR 17		136
110	157 surface	OT	1		TR 17	slaggy coal	3
111	157 surface	OT	1		TR 17	? cinder/?dross	20
112	197	PT	2		TR 25	R B 1st/2nd C	1
113	198	BC	1		TR 25		1
114	199	ST	1		TR 25		20
115	172	PT	8		TR 17	handmade mid-late I. A.	62
116	172	BN	29		TR 17	? butchery, inc frags	258
117	173	PT	1		TR 20	Late Med; 15th/16th C	4
118	173	TL	1		TR 20		25
119	173	BT	1		TR 20		33
120	173	GL	1		TR 20		3
121	174	MT	1		TR 20	Small Find no 1. Ag coin; Elizabeth 1st 1578 six pence	2
122	135	MT	1		TR 14	Small Find no 2. Cu alloy ? coin	3
123	002	MT	1	A		Small Find no 3. Cu alloy	2
124	001	MT	1		TR 5	Fe object	14
125	003	MT	1		TR 14	Fe circular object	1
126	083	MT	1	A		Small Find no 4. fe ? pin	1

Cat. No.	Context	Mat.	Num.	Area	Location	Notes	Wt.(g)
127	198	MT	1		TR 25	fe nail	4
128	119	MT	1	A		M/D find; Fe, nail frag ?	5
129	076	MT	1		TR 2	M/D find Fe, link or buckle?	8
130	060	PT	1			I. A.	3
131	060	BS	1				77
132	061	PT	1			I. A.	3
133	113	PT	1	A		R B	2
134	180	PT	1		TR 25	13th/14thc? abraded	4
135	180	TL	1			Post-Med	13

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